

Lines 266 to 275

By comparing the leaf stomatal structure parameters of mature trees and seedlings, we further analyzed the differences in stomatal structure between the upper and lower epidermises of leaves of mature trees and seedlings. We adopted the same sampling method as that for determining leaf anatomical structure. A total of 18 leaves from mature trees and seedlings were picked. For each leaf, three 1 cm  $\times$  1 cm samples were cut from both the upper and lower epidermises. For each sample, 2.5% glutaraldehyde solution was used for fixation, followed by rinsing with phosphate buffer. Dehydration, critical point drying and gold plating were carried out in sequence. The VEGA3 TESCAN vacuum electron scanning electron microscope was used for photographing and observation. Ten fields of view were randomly observed for each sample. Finally, Axiovision was used to measure stomatal length, stomatal width, stomatal density and single stomatal area.